

DOS REVIEWED 12-Jan-2011: DECLASSIFIED FOR RELEASE IN FULL

CONFIDENTIAL

HCC033

PAGE 01 STATE 084481

REFER TO DOS

71

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

66640

DRAFTED BY: EA/VN: JDMOFFETT

APPROVED BY: J: U. ALEXIS JOHNSON

EA:WHSULLIVAN (DRAFT) EA/VN:LBASKEW (DRAFT)

EUR:RTDAVIES (DRAFT) DOD:KENNETH RUSH (DRAFT)

S/S-O:CTMAGEE WHITE HOUSE-GEN. HAIG

127684

O 131939Z MAY 72

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WARSAW IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON IMMEDIATE

COMUSMACV IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 084481

EXDIS

SUBJECT: POLISH STATEMENT ON MINING ENTRANCES TO NVN PORTS

REFERENCE: WARSAW 1924

1. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED TO REPLY TO VICE MINISTER SPASOWSKI'S ORAL STATEMENT AS FOLLOWS:

2. THE UNITED STATES UNDERSTANDS YOUR CONCERN THAT POLISH MERCHANT VESSELS AND POLISH CITIZENS HAVE SUFFERED INCONVENIENCE AND MAY BE EXPOSED TO DANGER BY REASON OF THEIR PRESENCE IN NORTH VIETNAMESE WATERS AT A TIME WHEN THE USG HAS BEEN OBLIGED TO TAKE MEASURES OF SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE OFFENSIVE MILITARY ACTION. THESE MEASURES WERE ANNOUNCED BY PRESIDENT NIXON ON MAY 8 IN TERMS WHICH WERE INTENDED TO ALLOW MERCHANT VESSELS TO AVOID ENTRY INTO THE MINED AREAS OF NORTH VIETNAMESE WATERS, OR TO DEPART THOSE WATERS BEFORE THE MINES BECAME ACTIVE. IT IS UNFORTUNATE THAT, AS STATED BY THE VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, TWO POLISH FLAG VESSELS REMAINED IN THE HARBOR OF

MAY 13 17 22 '72

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 084481

HAIPHONG AFTER THE ACTIVATIONS.

3. THE UNITED STATES REGRETS THAT SPECIFIC STEPS CANNOT NOW BE TAKEN TO EFFECT THE SAFE EGRESS OF THE POLISH-FLAG SHIPS FROM HAIPHONG HARBOR. PRESIDENT NIXON HAS MADE CLEAR THE CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CAN CREATE TO EFFECT A CESSATION OF THESE INTERDICTORY MEASURES AGAINST THE DELIVERY OF SUPPLIES TO NORTH VIET-NAM. IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED IF THE POLISH AUTHORITIES COULD PROVIDE THE EMBASSY WITH ALL AVAILABLE IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REGARDING THE SHIPS AND THEIR EXACT LOCATIONS IN HAIPHONG HARBOR. IT IS ALSO SUGGESTED THAT IF POSSIBLE, THE SHIPS SHOULD NOT BE BERTHED OR ANCHORED IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO MILITARY INSTALLATIONS SUCH AS PETROLEUM DEPOTS, WAREHOUSES, ARTILLERY POSITIONS, ETC.

4. THE UNITED STATES EARNESTLY DESIRES TO AVOID ANY ACCIDENTAL DAMAGE TO POLISH VESSELS IN THE ZONE OF MILITARY ACTIVITY. WE CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT, DESPITE DIFFERENCES OF VIEW ON THE SITUATION IN INDOCHINA, THE POLISH GOVERNMENT WILL UNDERSTAND THAT MEASURES OF SELF-DEFENSE TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND VIET-NAM WERE THOSE WHICH MIGHT BE EXPECTED OF ANY NATIONS CONFRONTED WITH A MASSIVE MILITARY ASSAULT SUCH AS IS BEING CONDUCTED BY NORTH VIET-NAM AGAINST THE REPUBLIC OF VIET-NAM AND WHICH IS THREATENING THE SAFETY OF U.S. FORCES.

5. YOU MAY ASSURE SPASOWSKI THAT THE SENTIMENTS REGARDING THE WARSAW VISIT EXPRESSED BY THE PRESIDENT IN HIS LETTERS TO PRESIDENT JABLONSKI AND PRIME MINISTER JAROSZEWICZ STILL APPLY. MOREOVER, THIS GOVERNMENT APPRECIATES THE RESTRAINT AND MODERATE RESPONSE WHICH THE POLISH GOVERNMENT HAS MADE TO DATE, AND RECIPROCATES FULLY THE POLISH WISH TO AVOID ANY NEGATIVE INFLUENCE ON THE FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT OF US-POLISH RELATIONS. IRWIN